

## **Illinois Telecommunications Access Corporation (ITAC)**

### **Overview**

ITAC is a not-for-profit corporation organized to represent local telephone companies in Illinois. ITAC provides assistive telecommunications equipment on a loan and voucher basis capable of servicing the needs of subscribers who are certified as permanently hearing disabled, deaf-blind, speech-disabled, hearing –sight disabled as well, as training on its use.

ITAC also provides Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) under contract with Sprint. TRS allows specially trained Communications Assistance (CA) to relay conversations over the telephone between a person using an assistive telecommunications equipment and a person who uses a voice telephone.

### **ITAC Services**

Information about the services provided by ITAC and how to apply for equipment is available at ITAC's web site <http://www.itactty.org> and

**217-698-4170 (V/TTY)**

**800-841-6167 (V/TTY)**

**217-698-0942 (Fax)**

Illinois Telecommunications Access Corporation

3001 Montvale Drive, Suite D

Springfield, IL 62704

Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### **ITAC - Funding**

ITAC is funded by a monthly line charge applied to each subscriber line in Illinois. This line item is identified as "IL Telecom Relay Service and Equipment" or an equivalent phrase. The current line charge amount is 8 cents per subscriber line, 1.6 cents per Centrex line, and 40 cents per PBX trunk. Over the years, the line charge has ranged from 3 cents to 15 cents per month. This charge is evaluated annually around June 1; and based on projected expenses it may be adjusted. The most recent Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) order is in Docket 09-0182.

### **ITAC - History**

In 1985, the Illinois General Assembly passed the Universal Telephone Service Protection Law. This law called for the ICC to establish programs designated to promote telecommunications opportunities for persons with hearing or speech disabilities. The two key elements of the law provided for the distribution of TTYs at no charge to eligible recipients and a telephone relay service.

In the fall of 1988, ITAC, a not-for-profit organization representing local telephone companies in Illinois was formed to meet the requirements of the law. ITAC contracts with Distribution Centers throughout the state to provide eligible persons with assistive telecommunications equipment on a loan or voucher basis, as well as, training on its use. Illinois' program enables persons who are certified as permanently hearing disabled, deaf-blind, speech-disabled, hearing –sight disabled to obtain assistive telecommunications equipment at no charge so they may communicate by telephone.